

NEW JERSEY SKILLFUL ANGLER AWARDS PROGRAM

Minimum Weight/Length Requirements

	Adult Weight (lbs.)	Junior Weight (lbs./ozs.)	Catch and Release (inches)
Freshwater Species:			
Largemouth bass	6	4	21"
Smallmouth bass	4	3	19"
Striped bass hybrid	8	6	24"
Striped bass	30	25	40"
Bullhead	2	1 lb., 8 ozs.	14"
Carp	25	20	35"
Channel catfish	10	8	29"
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 ozs.	14"
Muskellunge	20	15	40"
Yellow perch	1 lb., 8 ozs.	1	13"
Chain pickerel	4	3	24"
Northern pike	10	8	34"
American shad	7	5	24"
Brook Trout	3	2	19"
Brown Trout	8	5	25"
Lake Trout	12	8	31"
Rainbow Trout	5	3 lbs., 8 ozs.	23"
Sunfish	1	12 ozs.	9"
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 ozs.	24"
Saltwater Species:			
Black Sea Bass	4	3	20"
Striped Bass	40	36	42"
Black Drum	70	63	46"
Bluefish	18	16	33"
Cod	30	27	42"
Dolphin	30	27	n/a
Winter Flounder	2	1 lb., 8 ozs.	16"
Fluke	8	7	27"
Kingfish	1	8 ozs.	13"
Mako Shark	250	225	n/a
Blue Marlin	400	360	n/a
White Marlin	60	54	n/a
Pollock	25	22 lbs., 8 ozs.	41"
Tautog	8	7	22"
Albacore Tuna	50	45	n/a
Big Eye Tuna	200	180	n/a
Bluefin Tuna	500	450	n/a
Yellowfin Tuna	120	108	n/a
Tuna (other)	250	225	n/a
Weakfish	10	9	30"

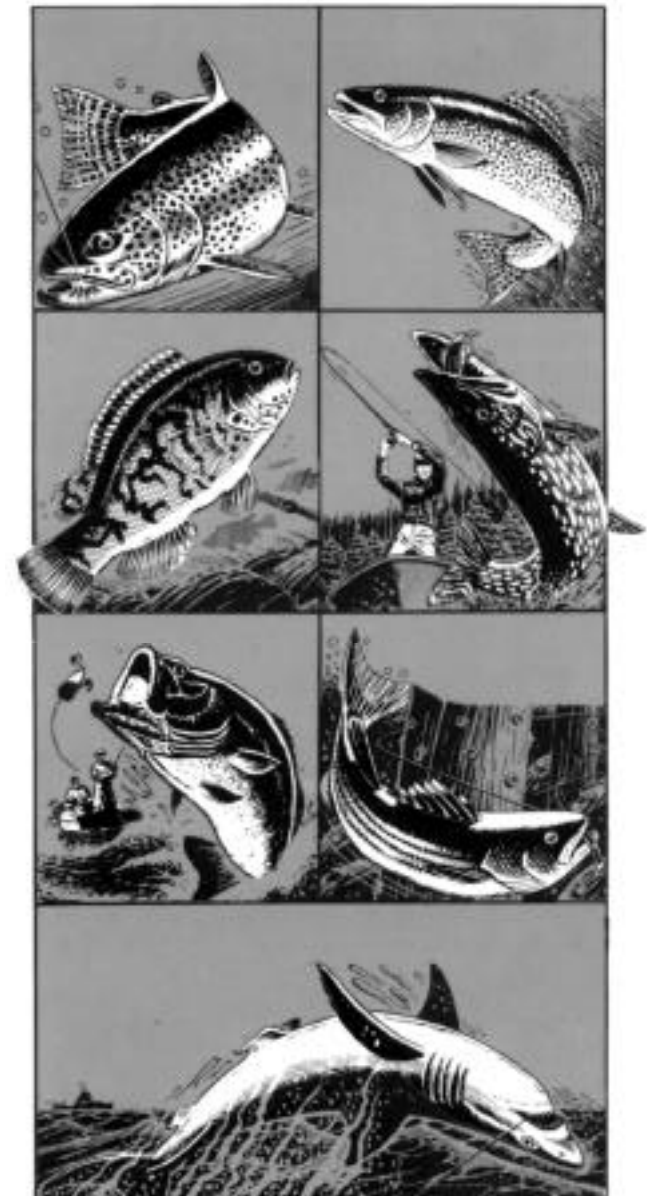
NOTE: The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit the Division's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.



**NEW JERSEY
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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400

NEW JERSEY

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THE PROGRAM

The Skillful Angler Awards Program is designed to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish Program. The program recognizes the many anglers that catch both freshwater and marine fish, which may not be of record size, but nonetheless are of sufficient size and weight to have tested the angler's skill and thus be worthy of recognition.

THE AWARD

Fishermen qualifying for a Skillful Angler Award receive a certificate attesting to their achievement along with a bronze pin to adorn their fishing hat, jacket, etc. Only one pin and certificate per species will be awarded annually to each applicant. For example, a fisherman who catches several bluefish over the year, each of which qualifies for an award, will receive only one pin and certificate.

ANNUAL SPECIES CATEGORY WINNERS

At the end of the year special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winner of each category is sent a special commemorative gift recognizing his/her accomplishment as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers. Note that while only one pin per angler per species will be awarded each year, an angler may submit applications for larger fish caught after receiving a pin. This will allow the angler to be eligible for the annual award for catching the largest fish of any given species during the year. For example, an angler catching an 18-pound bluefish who receives a pin and later catches a 22-pound bluefish may also submit an application to be considered for the annual award.

AWARD CATEGORIES

In addition to the Adult applicant category (for individuals aged 16 and over), the program now includes a Catch and Release category based on length and a Junior category for anglers under 16 years of age.

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

The program is open to resident and non-resident anglers. All fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using a hook and line during legally open seasons. Saltwater species taken from a boat must have been caught from a boat that left from and returned to a New Jersey port during the same trip.

Incomplete applications or species that cannot be identified will not be considered for an award. The Division reserves the right to investigate fish identification, angling method and accuracy of measurement and weight. It also reserves the right to reject any application.

All applications must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish. Applications for entries caught in December will not be accepted after January 31 of the new year.

A clear, side-view photo that allows accurate identification of the species is required for ALL entries. Photos become the property of the Division and will not be returned.

Measurements must be taken measuring from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed) to the tip of the tail. For Adult/Junior categories, fish must be weighed and measured by fishing license agents, tackle shops or authorized Division fisheries biologists. Applications must be signed by the person who weighed the fish and the name of the tackle shop, marina, boat or business should be identified.

Mail applications and photos to the: Skillful Angler Awards Program, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

NEW JERSEY SKILLFUL ANGLER AWARDS PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number () _____

Entry Category ☐ Adult ☐ Junior (under 16 years old)

☐ Catch and Release (Qualification based on length)
Fish Species (Angler must complete. Subject to verification by a state biologist.)

Weight _____ lbs. _____ ozs. Length _____ Girth _____

Date Caught* _____ Time _____

Where _____

Caught from: Boat__ Shore__ Surf__ Jetty__ Other (specify)_____

Line Test Used _____ Reel Type_____ Rod Type_____

Lure/Bait _____

Certification for Adult and Junior Categories

Fish measured and weighed by (establishment's name and address):

Telephone Number _____

Weighmaster's Name _____

Weighmaster's Signature _____

I hereby certify that this fish was caught in New Jersey waters in accordance with state laws and regulations and in the case of Adult/Junior category, that the entry was weighed on a certified scale.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

* Application/photo must be submitted within 30 days of catching the fish. Applications for entries caught in December will not be accepted after January 31 of the new year.

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